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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 44

JULY 14, 1946

PIG PRODUCTION HEADING DOWNWARD

Number of pigs saved in the spring pig crop of 1946 estimated 52.3 million head, according to the June survey. This number is about 1½ percent larger than the 1945 spring pig crop and 5 percent above 1935-44 average, but is 29 percent below record crop of 1943. Number of sows farrowed this spring was 8 million, 1 percent under year ago, but average number of pigs saved per litter was 6.47 compared with 6.30 last year and 6.15 for 10 year average.

Reports on breeding intentions show only 4.6 million sows being kept for fall farrow, down 16 percent from year ago. This number of sows, with average litters, would give a fall pig crop of about 29 million head, 17 percent under last fall and smallest fall crop since 1938.

The combined spring and fall pig crop would be about 81.4 million head, 6 percent less than in 1945 and about 1 percent under the 10-year average.

Estimated number of hogs over 6 months old, including brood sows, on farms July 1 this year 22.9 million head, about 2.6 million or 10 percent fewer than year ago, about 10 percent below average and the smallest number this date since 1938.

MILK OUTPUT DECLINING SLIGHTLY

Milk production in June estimated 12.7 billion pounds, 2 percent under June 1945 although higher than for any other month in 23 years of record. Production per cow at all-time high; on July 1 was 1 percent above year previous and 8 percent above 1935-44 average. However, fewer cows brought down the total production. Per capita milk production in June averaged 3.01 pounds per day, appreciably lower than in 1945, 1943 or 1942. Milk produced in first 6 months of 1946 totaled 62.2 billion pounds, 1.3 billion under same period of 1945. Prospect is for less milk than last year also during rest of 1946.

Creamery butter production January-May totaled 417 million pounds, a decrease of 167 million pounds or 28 percent under like period last year. Storage stocks of butter smallest since 1936. Butter output now going to civilians, no Government set-aside since June 30.

FEWER CHICKENS

Number of eggs laid in June 5 billion, 6 percent under June last year but 18 percent above 1935-44 average. Total egg production for first 6 months of 1946 was 33.8 billion eggs, same as in 1945

and 29 percent above average. Rate of production in June 15.4 eggs per layer compared with 15.6 a year ago and average of 14.8.

There were about 325 million laying hens on farms during June, 4 percent less than year ago but 13 percent above average.

June hatch of chicks lightest in years (only about 1/5 of June last year). On July 1 there were 560 million young chickens of this year's hatch on farms, 15 percent less than year ago although 1 percent above average. Judging from July 1 holdings of young chickens, the 1946 chicken crop will be about 15 percent under 1945.

Prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-June averaged 33.5 cents per dozen compared with 35.8 cents year ago. Farmers received average of 26.6 cents per pound liveweight for chickens in mid-June compared with 27.6 cents year ago.

United States average cost of farm poultry ration in mid-June was \$3.49 per hundred pounds compared with \$2.88 year ago and \$2.04 for the 10-year average. June feed cost highest in 23 years of record.

BIG CROP YEAR

Total acreage of 52 crops for harvest indicated 346 million acres, about 700,000 acres (.2 percent) less than harvested last year. Only about 12 million acres of crops abandoned from the total planted acreage this year, one of smallest losses in past 15 years.

Total crop production this year as indicated by July 1 conditions will be 24 percent larger than 1923-32 average and 3.6 points higher than in 1945. If attained, this 1946 production would outstrip the banner year 1942.

NEW BUMPER WHEAT CROP

Total wheat crop estimated 1,090 million bushels, country's fourth billion bushel wheat crop and second only to 1945 record crop of 1,123 million bushels. Winter wheat estimated 857 million bushels, record crop and mostly harvested. Both harvested acreage and yield in Southwest exceeded expectations. Spring wheat crop relatively small, 233 million bushels, shows effects of dry weather and late freezes. Durum estimated 26 million bushels, 26 percent under last year's good crop and 18 percent below average. Other spring wheat 207 million bushels, down 22 percent from last year's crop.

COMMODITY AND UNIT	PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED		
	ACTUAL PRICE	PARITY PRICE	
	MAY 15 1945	JUNE 15 1946	JUNE 15 1946
Wheat, bu.	dol.	1.70	1.74
Corn, bu.	dol.	1.35	1.42
Peanuts, lb.	ct.	8.90	8.83
Cotton, lb.	ct.	24.09	25.98
Potatoes, bu.	dol.	1.57	1.47
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol.	14.30	14.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . .	dol.	13.80	14.10
Veal calves, 100 lb. . .	dol.	14.40	14.80
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol.	14.10	14.30
Butterfat, lb.	ct.	51.0	52.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .	dol.	3.24	3.39
Chickens, live, 1b. . . .	ct.	25.3	26.6
Eggs, doz.	ct.	32.8	33.5

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Total acreage of all wheat for harvest in 1946 estimated 65.7 million acres, third largest in our history, about 2 percent over last year and compares with peak acreage of 73.7 million acres in 1919. Stocks of old wheat on farms July 1 only 42.7 million bushels, less than half the amount a year ago and smallest since 1937.

RECORD CORN CROP?

Corn crop forecast all-time high of 3.3 billion bushels, based on July 1 conditions, although much can happen to the corn crop between July 1 and harvest. Total planting of corn this year 93 million acres, about like last year but 2 percent under average.

Stocks of corn on farms July 1 estimated 515 million bushels, 30 percent under year ago, 14 percent below average and smallest for this date in last nine years.

PLENTY OF OATS

Near record oats crop forecast, 1,471 million bushels compared with last year's record of 1,548 bushels. This year's crop expected to be about 30 percent above 10-year average.

Farm stocks of oats July 1 largest on record for this date, estimated 278 million bushels or 33 percent more than year ago and 56 percent above average.

SMALLER SOYBEAN ACREAGE

Acreage of soybeans planted alone for all purposes estimated 11.6 million acres, 13 percent below last year and smallest acreage since 1941, although 17 percent above 1935-44 average. No crop forecast yet.

Stocks of soybeans on farms July 1 were 6,780,000 bushels, smallest in the four years of record, compares with 7,587,000 bushels on farms a year ago. Low farm reserves July 1 due primarily to decreased carryover for seed and strong commercial demand.

FIRST 2-BILLION-POUND

TOBACCO CROP

Production of all tobacco indicated 2,126 million pounds, first crop to exceed 2 billion pounds and far above any other year. *Flue-cured* expected about 1,274 million pounds compared with record of 1,174 million last year. *Burley* indicated 543 million pounds, about 6 percent below last year. *Southern Maryland* indicated 39.2 million pounds compared with 21.6 million last year and breaks record of 38.2 million in 1944. *Fire-cured* 83.3 million pounds, 46 percent above last year. *Dark air-cured* 44.2 million pounds, 2 percent above last year. *Cigar* tobaccos forecast somewhat more than last year: fillers up 13 percent, binders 17 percent, and wrappers 7 percent.

MORE FRUIT THIS YEAR

Total production of deciduous fruits now indicated 13 percent above last

year and 7 percent above average.

Commercial apples estimated 106 million bushels, 56 percent above record small crop of last year but 12 percent below 1935-44 average.

Record peach crop in sight, estimated 82.8 million bushels, exceeding previous record of 81.5 million last year. The 10-year average crop was about 60 million bushels.

FARM HELP INCREASING — WAGES AT NEW PEAK

Number of farm workers July 1 estimated 11,586,000, about 4 percent more than year ago. Number hired workers 2,711,000, compared with 2,544,000 year ago or an increase of 7 percent. Number of family workers 8,875,000, compared with 8,556,000 year ago.

Wages of farm workers July 1 were 331 percent of the 1935-39 average for this date or 390 percent of the 1910-14 average. Farm wages have risen 10 percent since April 1, about double the usual spring increase. They are 8 percent higher than a year ago and are the highest on record. The average farm wage per day without board for the U.S. was \$4.84 on July 1 compared with \$4.48 a year ago. The annual average 1935-39 farm wage per day without board was \$1.50.

FARM INCOME

Total cash receipts to farmers from products sold during April were 1,547 million dollars compared with 1,570 million dollars in April 1945. These figures include 150 million dollars of Government payments both this April and last. Total farm income January-April 6,076 million dollars compared with 6,072 million dollars in like period of 1945. These figures include 392 million dollars Government payments this year and 345 million dollars last year.

MARKETING COSTS RISING

Charges for marketing a family market basket of farm food products rose about 3½ percent from March through April, or from annual level of \$227 to \$235. Food marketing charges in April were 5 percent above year before.

Retail costs of the market basket to consumers rose about 1½ percent from March through April, from annual level of \$466 to \$473. Retail prices of farm food products are about 20 percent under peak of postwar inflation in 1920.

The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products dropped to 54 cents in April, after having been at 55 cents during preceding 5 months.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 — Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JUNE 1946
Prices received by farmers . . .	1910-14 = 100	218
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	187
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	117
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	163
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 184
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	³ 355
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 374
RATIOS	LONG-TIME JUNE - AVERAGE	JUNE 1946
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	11.4	10.1
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	22.2	23.7
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.13	1.21
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	10.8	9.6
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-MAY 1945	JAN.-MAY 1946
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	50.5	49.6
Eggs, (Bil.)	28.5	28.8
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	⁴ 2,911	2,303
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	⁴ 382	390
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	⁴ 3,525	4,038
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	⁴ 7,069	6,922

¹May figure.
²Factory pay roll per employed worker. March figure.
³April figure.
⁴Federally inspected slaughter.